GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5255
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2003
SHORTAGE OF WATER IN RAJASTHAN
A.C. JOSE

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) a total number of blocks in Rajasthan which have suffered acute shortage of water during the last one year and the number out of them which have been declared dark zones during the said period; and

(b) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the State to overcome the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources regularly monitors the ground water levels in various parts of the country, including Rajasthan, through a network of National Hydrograph Monitoring Stations. A comparison of May, 2002 water level data with the decade (1992-2001) mean water level data indicates decline upto 2 meters in ground water level in Bundi, Banswara, Dhaulpur, Udiapur, Bharatpur, Baran, Dungarpur, Karauli, Alwar and Jhalawar districts, between 2-4 metres in Sikar, Dausa, Dungarpur, Jhunjhunu and Alwar district and more than 4 meters in Jalore, Sirohi, Bhilwara, Jaipur, Pali, Dausa and Tonk districts of Rajasthn.

The 'dark' blocks are worked out based on ground water resources estimation. Based on such estimation for the State of Rajasthan, there are 74 over-exploited blocks, where annual extraction of ground water is more than annual recharge and 20 dark blocks, where annual extraction is 85% to 100% of the annual recharge.

(b) CGWB has drilled 198 exploratory tubewells in Rajasthan during January, 2001 to December, 2002 out of which, 154 tubewells were successful and all the successful wells have been handed over free of cost to the State Government of Rajasthan. Moreover, the CGWB has approved 18 projects of rain water harvesting and ground water recharge in the State at a cost of Rs. 122.24 lakh.